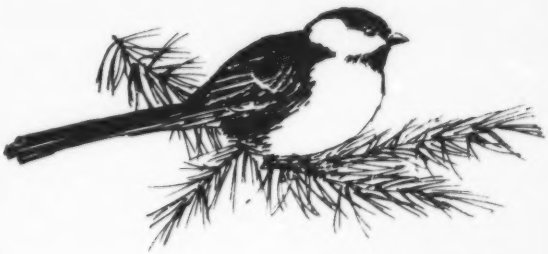
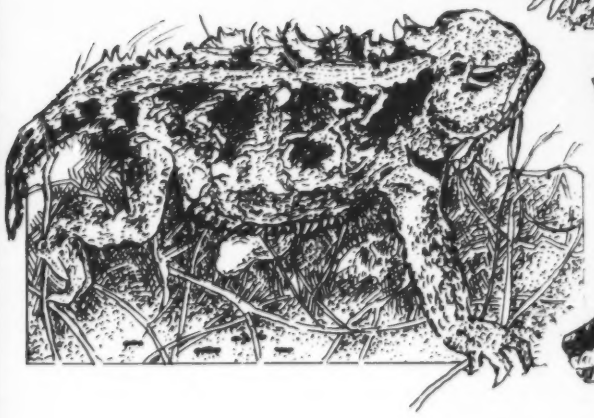
The Status of Alberta Wildlife

Wildlife Management Branch

Status Report





Alberta

The Status of Alberta Wildlife

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife Division

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PREFACE

This document is the first public presentation of a new system for evaluating the status of all wildlife species in Alberta. It is the first step in a continuing process of evaluating and reporting on the biological status of Alberta wildlife species.

This evaluation process is unique to Alberta, but is patterned after similar systems being used in other North American jurisdictions. The initial classification of individual species is based on current knowledge within the Fish and Wildlife Division, supplemented by input from a limited number of provincial experts.

Distribution of this report will achieve three objectives:

1) To provide information on, and raise awareness of, the current status of wildlife species in Alberta.

2) To stimulate broad public input to assist in refining the evaluation process and more clearly defining the status of individual species.

3) To provide a reference for provincial government agencies in the development of wildlife conservation and management programs.

This document is the beginning of an ongoing process. It will be refined, improved and broadened as more data are incorporated. Both the evaluation process and status designations are open to change. Both will benefit from broad public review and input.

To facilitate public input, a blank species evaluation form is provided in Appendix I. Anyone wishing to participate in the classification of one or more species is invited to complete a form for each species, provide background information and/or comments on the evaluation process, and mail this information to:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report attempts to appraise or evaluate the well being or soundness (status) of the provincial population of each species of wildlife found in Alberta. Status is a relative term which is derived by evaluating key criteria such as breeding, distribution, abundance, security of habitats and current populations and trends.

A clear understanding of this status for individual species is a key element in wildlife conservation. It permits sound planning and decision-making for conservation and protection programs and provides a critical step in setting wildlife management priorities.

Throughout the history of wildlife management, information on population status and trends has been used to manage game species. More recently, the identification and restoration of endangered/threatened species has been based largely on understanding and attempting to improve population status. As interest in wildlife has grown and broadened, and our understanding of the value and need to maintain undisrupted and diverse ecosystems has increased, the need to understand the biological status of all wildlife has become essential. Determining status is the first step in the process of effective management as it provides the base from which management can be planned and assessed.

The Fish and Wildlife Division began a status evaluation process in 1985 with the Status of the Fish and Wildlife Resource in Alberta, and A Policy for the

Management of Threatened Wildlife in Alberta. These documents provided a summary of the status of selected high priority species, and started the use of an objective evaluation system to summarize and compare status information. They did not, however, provide a complete review of the status of all Alberta wildlife species.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this document is to take the next logical step, which is to provide an evaluation of the biological status of all wildlife species that occur in Alberta. In essence, this system evaluates the current and projected status of populations and their habitats, sorts species into lists based on similar status, and provides a brief summary of current status and background information for species at risk and for those species that may require special management.

This evaluation of "wildlife" has been limited to vertebrate animals, except fish, which breed in or migrate through Alberta. It therefore excludes plants and invertebrates which are often treated as wildlife. In future, it will be necessary to expand this definition.

It is a challenge to create a system that will adequately evaluate widely diverse species, ranging from Grizzly Bears to Leopard Frogs. This document is a first step in this process. It is intended to accomplish the following three objectives:

1) To provide a baseline reference to assist in establishing priorities and

directions for management and conservation programs dealing with wildlife species and their habitats.

2) To provide information to the public and increase their awareness of the current status of Alberta's wildlife.

3) To stimulate and focus public input to improve both the evaluation process and individual species classifications.

1.3 Future Activities

Refining the status determination process initiated in this document will be an ongoing task for the Fish and Wildlife Division. This will include ensuring that existing information from both knowledgeable individuals and published data sources is utilized and identifying information needs for species whose status cannot be determined today. Filling the data gaps will require a concerted effort by government agencies, nongovernment groups and committed individuals.

It should also be recognized that wildlife populations can change relatively rapidly, particularly in areas affected by human land-use. There is a continuing need to monitor these changes to ensure populations remain viable and to anticipate the effects of changing habitat conditions.

2.0 THE STATUS EVALUATION SYSTEM

The biological status of each species is as unique as its life history and physical form. In order to focus management and conservation efforts, however, it is necessary to create a structure to group species of similar status into broad categories. In the future, separate evaluation systems may be required for different groups of species.

2.1 Status Categories

The status evaluation system outlined in this document separates Alberta wildlife into one of five categories:

RED: These species are in serious trouble. Their populations are nonviable or at immediate risk of declining to nonviable levels in Alberta. They have, or will be considered for, designation as Endangered Species in Alberta.

BLUE: These species are also at risk, but the threats they face are less immediate. They are particularly vulnerable to noncyclical declines in population or habitat, or to reductions in provincial distribution. Species that are generally suspected of being vulnerable, but for which information is too limited to clearly define their status, have also been placed in this category.

YELLOW: These are sensitive species that are not at risk. They may require special management to address concerns related to low natural populations, limited provincial distribution, or particular biological

features (e.g. colonial nesting, narrow habitat requirements).

GREEN: These species are not at risk. Their populations are healthy and often widespread, and their key habitats are generally secure. This category also includes nonresident migrants and species whose occurrence in Alberta is accidental or peripheral to their normal distribution.

STATUS UNDETERMINED: This category includes those species not considered at risk but for which insufficient information is currently available to determine an accurate status.

2.2 The Evaluation Process

In order to group species into one of the five status categories, a relatively simple system was adopted to identify factors that affect populations and to provide a numerical score that reflects relative status (Table 1).

Five criteria were chosen for evaluation:

1. ABUNDANCE

   Based on an estimate of the number of breeding individuals (or breeding pairs of birds) in Alberta.

2. BREEDING DISTRIBUTION

   The current breeding distribution in Alberta based on the relative abundance of a species within Alberta's five major natural regions (Rocky Mountain, Foothills, Parkland, Grassland and Boreal Forest, Appendix II). If this distribution was patchy within a natural region, it was termed "localized"; if it was widespread in a natural region, it was termed "general."

Table 1. Species ranking criteria

CRITERION	RANK SCORE 12	9	6	3	0
ABUNDANCE # of breeding individuals (or pairs of birds) in Alberta.	**VERY LOW** 0-100	**LOW** 101-500	**LIMITED** 501-1000	**MODERATE** 1001-5000	**COMMON** > 5000 or migrant
BREEDING DISTRIBUTION 5 natural regions* Mountain Foothills Grassland Parkland Boreal Forest	**VERY RESTRICTED** Localized in 1 natural region	**RESTRICTED** General in 1 or localized in 2 natural regions	**LOCALIZED** General in 2 or localized in 3 natural regions	**GENERAL BUT LOCALIZED** General in 3 or localized in 4 or 5 natural regions	**WIDESPREAD** General in 4 or 5 natural regions or migrant
HABITAT INTEGRITY Confined to habitat currently occupied and includes all environmental threats	**SEVERELY THREATENED** >50% of habitat liable to be destroyed in 10 years	**THREATENED** >10% of habitat liable to be destroyed in 10 years	**DETERIORATING** Major long term loss or degredation	**AT RISK** Degradation in 10 years	**NOT AT RISK**
POPULATION TREND	**BELOW MINIMUM VIABLE POPULATION**	**RAPIDLY DECREASING** >20% decline over a 10-year period	**SLOW DOWNWARD TREND**	**STABLE** +/- 5% over a 10 year period	**INCREASING** or periferal or migrants
NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL STATUS	**UNIQUE** Only world population occurs in Alberta or endangered elsewhere	The only Canadian population and at risk elsewhere	Significant proportion of Canadian population and at risk or rare elsewhere	Moderate proportion of Canadian population and not at risk elsewhere	**COMMON**

*Five of the six natural regions found in Alberta were utilized in setting breeding distribution.

3. HABITAT INTEGRITY

The relative security of currently occupied habitats in Alberta over the next 10 years. This is a broad evaluation of all habitat risks, including both loss and/or degradation as a result of increasing human impacts.

4. POPULATION TREND

Anticipated change in Alberta's breeding population over the next 10 years. In the absence of other indicators, this is a projection of current population trends.

5. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STATUS

The significance of the Alberta population relative to the Canadian and world populations of a particular species.

Within each of these criteria, descriptive and numeric categories were developed to assist in applying a rank score from zero (lowest risk) to 12 (highest risk) (Table 1). Numeric scores for each criterion were then totaled to arrive at an overall species status score. Where available, quantitative data were used in this evaluation. For many species, however, quantitative data are lacking, and this process relied upon indirect and/or qualitative information. The raw species scores reflect a continuum in species status from those at high risk (Red) to species with secure and healthy populations in Alberta (Green). Examples of raw scores for several species are provided in Table 2.

The final step in the evaluation process was sorting the species into the five categories (Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Status Undetermined). The creation of categories within the continuum of raw scores is somewhat subjective. The range

Table 2: Examples of numerical species evaluations

SPECIES	RANKING					
	Abundance	Breeding Dist.	Habitat Integrity	Population Trend	National Intern.	Total Points
Peregrine Falcon	12	12	0	12	12	48
Leopard Frog	9 - 12	9 - 12	6 - 9	9	3 - 6	36 - 48
River Otter	3	7	7	6	0	23
Pronghorn Antelope	0	9	3	0	3	15
Gadwall	0	3	6	3	0	12
Canada Goose	0	3	3	0	0	6
Mink	0	0	3	3	0	6
White-tailed Deer	0	0	3	0	0	3

of scores used to define each category was selected by applying hypothetical examples to the scoring system, and by comparing the raw scores of species known to be at great risk (e.g. Peregrine Falcon) with those known to be secure.

Species were assigned to each status category according to the following range of scores:

Sum Rank Score	Category
30 or greater	Red
20 to 29	Blue
10 to 19	Yellow
0 to 9	Green

If insufficient information was available to estimate a rank score for one or more of the five evaluation criteria, the species was normally placed in the Status Undetermined category. Those species that are generally suspected of being at risk but for which information is too limited to clearly define their status were place in the Blue list.

The provincial status was difficult to define for species that migrate through Alberta but do not breed here, and species whose occurrence in Alberta is peripheral to their normal distribution. Many of the evaluation criteria can not be appropriately applied to these species because the factors influencing their status are largely outside provincial boundaries. Using the descriptive criteria shown in Table 1, the majority of non-breeding migrant and peripheral species were placed on the Green list. These species are also identified in the status Tables by a letter code (m = nonbreeding migrant; p = peripherial/ accidental).

3.0 THE STATUS OF ALBERTA WILDLIFE

The results of Alberta's status evaluation process for amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals are presented in Tables 3 through 6, respectively.

Current status and background information are provided in Tables 7, 8 and 9 for Red, Blue and Yellow list species, respectively. These tables provide a greater understanding of the factors that contributed to the evaluation of the species.

In recognition of both public demand/interest, and management requirements, Tables 10 and 11 provide status and background information for species on the Green and Status Undetermined lists that can be harvested (hunted or trapped) in Alberta.

In each of these tables, common names have been used. A list of common and scientific names for these species is included in The General Wildlife Regulation under the Wildlife Act. Some names are updated according to current taxonomic classifications and several bird species are added to reflect current information.

Table 3. The status of Alberta amphibians

RED LIST	BLUE LIST	YELLOW LIST
Great Plains Toad	Plains Spadefoot Toad	Canadian Toad
Long-toed Salamander	Spotted Frog	
Northern Leopard Frog		

GREEN LIST
Boreal Toad
Chorus Frog
Tiger Salamander
Wood Frog

Table 4. The status of Alberta reptiles

RED LIST	BLUE LIST	YELLOW LIST
Short-horned Lizard	Prairie Rattlesnake	Bull Snake
Western Hognose Snake	Western Painted Turtle	Plains Garter Snake
		Red-sided Garter Snake
		Wandering Garter Snake

Table 5. The status of Alberta birds

RED LIST	BLUE LIST	YELLOW LIST
Baird's Sparrow	American White Pelican(*)	American Bittern
Burrowing Owl(*)	Bald Eagle	American Wigeon
Ferruginous Hawk(*)	Bay-breasted Warbler	Barred Owl
Greater Prairie-Chicken (e)	Black Swift	Black Tern
Loggerhead Shrike	Blackburnian Warbler	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Long-billed Curlew	Brewer's Sparrow	Black-backed Woodpecker
Mountain Plover(*)(p)	Cape May Warbler	Black-headed Grosbeak
Peregrine Falcon(*)	Caspian Tern	Black-throated Green Warbler
Piping Plover(*)	Cooper's Hawk	Blue-winged Teal
Trumpeter Swan(*)	Eskimo Curlew(m)	Bonaparte's Gull
Upland Sandpiper	Great Gray Owl	Boreal Owl
Whooping Crane(*)	Osprey	Brown Creeper
	Prairie Falcon	Canvasback
	Turkey Vulture	Chestnut-collared Longspur
		Cinnamon Teal
		Clark's Nutcracker
		Common Loon
		Common Snipe
		Double-crested Cormorant
		Eastern Screech Owl (p)
		Franklin's Gull
		Gadwall
		Golden Eagle
		Gray-cheeked Thrush (p)
		Great Blue Heron
		Green-winged Teal
		Herring Gull
		Lesser Scaup
		Long-eared Owl
		Mallard
		Mountain Chickadee
		Northern Goshawk
		Northern Hawk Owl
		Northern Pintail
		Northern Shoveler
		Ovenbird
		Pileated Woodpecker
		Purple Martin
		Red-necked Grebe
		Ring-necked Pheasant
		Sage Grouse
		Sharp-tailed Grouse
		Three-toed Woodpecker
		Varied Thrush
		Western Grebe
		Western Screech Owl (p)
		Winter Wren

(*) Currently designated by the Alberta wildlife Act as an Endangered Animal.
(m) Non-breeding migrant in Alberta.
(p) Species whose occurrence in Alberta is accidental or peripheral to its normal distribution.
(e) Species believed to be extirpated from Alberta.

Table 5. The status of Alberta birds con't

GREEN LIST	STATUS UNDETERMINED
American Black Duck(p)	Alder Flycatcher
American Coot	American Avocet
American Crow	American Dipper
American Kestrel	American Goldfinch
American Pipit	American Redstart
American Robin	Bank Swallow
American Tree Sparrow(m)	Belted Kingfisher
American Tree Swallow	Black-and-White Warbler
Ancient Murrelet(p)	Black-billed Cuckoo
Anna's Hummingbird(p)	Black-throated Blue Warbler(m)
Arctic Tern(p)	Black-throated Green Warbler
Baird's Sandpiper(m)	Blackpoll Warbler
Band-tailed Pigeon(p)	Bobolink
Barn Owl(p)	Broad-winged Hawk
Barn Swallow	Brown Thrasher
Barrow's Goldeneye	Calliope Hummingbird
Bendire's Thrasher (p)	Canada Warbler
Black Guillemot (p)	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black Scoter(p)	Clark's Grebe
Black-bellied Plover(m)	Common Grackle
Black-billed Magpie	Common Nighthawk
Black-capped Chickadee	Common Poorwill(p)
Black-chinned Hummingbird(p)	Connecticut Warbler
Black-legged Kittiwake(p)	Dark-eyed Junco
Black-necked Stilt(p)	Dusky Flycatcher
Black-throated Gray Warbler(p)	Eared Grebe
Blue-gray Gnatchatcher (p)	Eastern Phoebe
Blue Grouse	Evening Grosbeak
Blue Jay	Forster's Tern
Bohemian Waxwing	Fox Sparrow
Boreal Chickadee	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Brambling (p)	Grasshopper Sparrow
Brant(p)	Gray Catbird
Brewer's Blackbird	Great Crested Flycatcher(p)
Brown-headed Cowbird	Hammond's Flycatcher
Bufflehead	Lark Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper(m)	Lark Sparrow
California Gull	Le Conte's Sparrow
Canada Goose	Lincoln's Sparrow
Carolina Wren(p)	MacGillivray's Warbler
Cassin's Finch(p)	Magnolia Warbler
Cassin's Sparrow(p)	Marbled Godwit
Cattle Egret(p)	Marsh Wren
Cedar Waxwing	McCown's Longspur
Chestnut-backed Chickadee(p)	Mourning Warbler
Chimney Swift(p)	Northern Harrier
Chipping Sparrow	Northern Pygmy-Owl
Clay-colored Sparrow	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Cliff Swallow	

Table 5: The status of Alberta birds con't

GREEN LIST	STATUS UNDETERMINED
Common Crane(p)	Northern Waterthrush
Common Goldeneye	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Common Merganser	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Common Raven	Palm Warbler
Common Redpoll(m)	Philadelphia Vireo
Common Tern	Pine Grosbeak
Common Yellowthroat	Purple Finch
Costa's Hummingbird(p)	Red Crossbill
Curlew Sandpiper(p)	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Dickcissel(p)	Red-naped Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker	Rock Wren
Dunlin(m)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Bluebird(p)	Rosy Finch
Eastern Kingbird	Rufous Hummingbird
Eastern Meadowlark(p)	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eurasian Wigeon(p)	Sandhill Crane
European Starling	Say's Phoebe
Garganey(p)	Sedge Wren(m)
Glaucous Gull(p)	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Glaucous-winged Gull(p)	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Short-billed Dowitcher
Gray Jay	Short-eared Owl
Gray Partridge	Solitary Sandpiper
Great Black-backed Gull(p)	Solitary Vireo
Great Egret(p)	Sora
Great Horned Owl	Sprague's Pipit
Greater Scaup(p)	Swamp Sparrow
Greater White-fronted Goose(m)	Tennessee Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	Townsend's Warbler
Green-backed Heron(p)	Veery
Gyrfalcon(m)	Vesper Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Violet-green Swallow
Harlequin Duck	Virginia Rail
Harris' Sparrow(m)	Warbling Vireo
Hermit Thrush	Western Flycatcher
Hoary Redpoll(m)	Western Kingbird
Hooded Merganser	Western Meadowlark
Horned Grebe	Western Tanager
Horned Lark	Western Wood-Pewee
House Finch(p)	White-breasted Nuthatch
House Sparrow	White-winged Crossbill
House Wren	Willet
Hudsonian Godwit(m)	Willow Flycatcher(p)
Iceland Gull(p)	Wilson's Warbler
Indigo Bunting(p)	Yellow Rail
Kentucky Warbler	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Killdeer	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
	Yellow-breasted Chat

Table 5: The status of Alberta birds con't

GREEN LIST	STATUS UNDETERMINED

King Eider(p)
Lapland Longspur(m)
Lazuli Bunting
Least Flycatcher
Least Sandpiper(m)
Lesser Golden-Plover(m)
Lesser Yellowlegs
Lewis' Woodpecker(p)
Little Gull(p)
Long-billed Dowitcher(m)
Long-tailed Jaeger(p)
Merlin
Mew Gull(m)
Mongolian Plover(p)
Mountain Bluebird
Mourning Dove
Nashville Warbler(p)
Northern Cardinal(p)
Northern Flicker
Northern Mockingbird(p)
Northern Oriole
Northern Parula(p)
Northern Shrike(p)
Northern Wheatear(p)
Oldsquaw(m)
Orange-crowned Warbler
Pacific Loon(p)
Parasitic Jaeger(m)
Pectoral Sandpiper(m)
Pied-billed Grebe
Pine Siskin
Pomarine Jaeger(p)
Pygmy Nuthatch(p)
Pine Warbler(p)
Red Knot(m)
Red Phalarope(m)
Red-breasted Merganser
Red-eyed Vireo
Redhead
Red-headed Woodpecker(p)
Red-necked Phalarope(m)
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-throated Loon
Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove

Table 5: The status of Alberta birds con't

GREEN LIST — STATUS UNDETERMINED

Ross' Goose(m)
Rough-legged Hawk(m)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Ruddy Duck
Ruddy Turnstone(m)
Ruff(p)
Ruffed Grouse
Rusty Blackbird
Sabine's Gull(p)
Sage Thrasher(p)
Sanderling(m)
Savannah Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager(p)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher(p)
Semipalmated Plover(p)
Semipalmated Sandpiper(m)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper(m)
Smith's Longspur(m)
Snow Bunting(m)
Snow Goose(m)
Snowy Egret(p)
Snowy Owl(m)
Snowy Plover(p)
Song Sparrow
Spoonbill Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper(p)
Spruce Grouse
Steller's Jay(p)
Stilt Sandpiper(m)
Surfbird(p)
Surf Scoter
Swainson's Hawk
Swainson's Thrush
Thayer's Gull(m)
Townsend's Solitaire
Tundra Swan(m)
Vaux's Swift(p)
Wandering Tattler(p)
Western Bluebird(p)
Western Sandpiper(m)
Whimbrel(m)
White-crowned Sparrow
White-faced Ibis(p)
White-rumped Sandpiper(m)
White-tailed Ptarmigan
White-throated Sparrow

Table 5: The status of Alberta birds con't

GREEN LIST	STATUS UNDETERMINED
White-winged Scoter	
Wild Turkey	
Williamson's Sapsucker(p)	
Willow Ptarmigan	
Wilson's Phalarope	
Wood Duck	
Yellow Warbler	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo(p)	
Yellow-billed Loon(m)	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	

Table 6: The status of Alberta mammals

RED LIST	BLUE LIST	YELLOW LIST
Black-footed Ferret(e)	Bobcat	Badger
Swift Fox(*)	Brown Lemming(p)	Bighorn Sheep
Wood Bison(*)	Canada Lynx	Columbian Ground Squirrel
Woodland Caribou(*)	Cougar	Elk (Wapiti)
Yellow-cheeked Vole	Grizzly Bear	Fisher
	Mountain Goat	Hoary Bat
	Ord's Kangaroo Rat	Little Brown Bat
	Prairie Vole	Long-tailed Vole
	Red-tailed Chipmunk	Long-tailed Weasel
	River Otter	Moose
	Sagebrush Vole	Nuttall's Cottontail
	Wandering Shrew	Pika
	Western Small-footed Bat	Prairie Shrew
	Wolverine	Pronghorn (Antelope)
		Silver-haired Bat
		Water Vole
		White-tailed Jack Rabbit
		Wolf
		Yellow-pine Chipmunk

(*) Currently designated by the Alberta Wildlife Act as an endangered animal.

(e) - Species believed to be extirpated from Alberta.
(p) - Species who's occurrence in Alberta is accidental or peripheral to its normal distribution.

Table 6: The status of Alberta mammals con't

GREEN LIST	STATUS UNDETERMINED
Arctic Fox(p)	Bushy-tailed Woodrat
Arctic Shrew	Franklin's Ground Squirrel
Barren Ground Caribou(p)	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
Beaver	Hoary Marmot
Big Brown Bat	Least Weasel
Black Bear	Long-eared Bat
Coyote	Long-legged Bat
Deer Mouse	Northern Grasshopper Mouse
Dusky Shrew	Northern Long-eared Bat
Ermine	Olive-backed Pocket Mouse
Gray Squirrel	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
Heather Vole	Yellow-bellied Marmot
House Mouse	
Least Chipmunk	
Marten	
Masked Shrew	
Meadow Jumping Mouse	
Meadow Vole	
Mink	
Mule Deer	
Muskrat	
Northern Bog Lemming	
Northern Flying Squirrel	
Northern Pocket Gopher	
Porcupine	
Pygmy Shrew	
Raccoon	
Red Bat(p)	
Red Fox	
Red Squirrel	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	
Snowshoe Hare	
Southern Red-backed Vole	
Striped Skunk	
Water Shrew	
Western Harvest Mouse	
Western Jumping Mouse	
White-tailed Deer	
Woodchuck	

Table 7: Status and background of Red List species

Red-listed species are those that are or will be considered for endangered species designation.

AMPHIBIANS

Species	Current Status	Background
Great Plains Toad	Rare prairie resident. Total population unknown but apparently declining.	Critical prairie breeding habitat declining because of drought, drainage and cultivation of wetlands. Clean water, apparently required for breeding, compromised by intensive livestock use of breeding area ponds.
Long-toed Salamander	Rare resident, limited number of patchy disjunct populations.	Isolated populations focused in mountain pass areas particularly vulnerable to potential habitat destruction/alternation associated with industrial, recreational, transportation development. Additional data required.
Northern Leopard Frog	Decreasing.	This previously common and widespread species has disappeared from the vast majority of its Alberta range, with only six known successful breeding areas located in 1990. Similar but less complete range and population declines documented throughout Canada. Protection of remnant breeding areas is essential while investigations of the biological needs of this species continue.

REPTILES

Species	Current Status	Background
Short-horned Lizard	Rare and localized.	Population status and trend unknown, but occurs in strongly localized and isolated sandy grassland/badland/river break habitats.

Table 7: Status and background of Red List species (con't)

Western Hognose Snake	Exremely rare (only 36 site or specimen records available).	Information on popultions and hibernacula locations is essential to properly determine status and management requirements.
	BIRDS	
Species	Current Status	Background
Baird's Sparrow	Population information poor but preliminary estimate of 9000 singing males in 1989.	Concern over apparent population decline throughout Canadian range, possibly as a result of alteration of key prairie habitats. Clarification of population status and trend is essential. National status Threatened.
Burrowing Owl	Endangered animal estimated to have 700 to 900 breeding pairs.	Population declining in key prairie habitats across Canada. Threats include cultivation of nest sites, loss of ground squirrels and pesticide use.
Ferruginous Hawk	Endangered animal estimated to have 1400 to 1700 pairs.	If current recovery of breeding population continues and key nesting and feeding habitats can be secured, this species can be considered for change to Blue List.
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Extirpated from Alberta and Canada.	Potential for reintroduction is low because of predators, altered habitat and competition with Sharp-tailed Grouse.
Loggerhead Shrike	Population low, poorly understood, and probably declining. Estimated to have fewer than 500 pairs.	Concern over known population decline in much of Canada. Conservation of prairie shrub nest habitat and improved information on population status and trend is necessary to properly manage this species. National status Threatened.

Table 7: Status and background of Red List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Long-billed Curlew	Population low, possibly declining.	This species relies on native prairie grassland and is thought to be declining throughout its Canadian range. Alberta data are presently insufficient to allow effective management.
Mountain Plover	Endangered animal (four to six breeding pairs known).	At extreme northern limit of breeding range in Alberta. Requires native grassland management to provide preferred open nest sites.
Peregrine Falcon	Endangered animal (10 breeding pairs).	With continued intervention, existing pairs in northern Alberta and in Edmonton and Calgary are relatively secure. Provincial recovery will depend on declining pesticide levels in prey and releases of captive-reared chicks into southern Alberta.
Piping Plover	Endangered animal (estimated to be 100 to 150 breeding pairs).	Threatened or Endangered throughout North America. Recovery requires protection from human disturbance and management of key shoreline nesting habitats.
Trumpeter Swan	Endangered animal. Breeding population has increased from 36 pairs in 1980 to 65 pairs in 1990.	Critical shortage of key winter habitat in the Tri-State area (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming) still limiting population growth. Existing breeding habitat relatively secure.
Upland Sandpiper	Unclear.	Populations have probably declined with loss of native prairie grassland nesting areas, but adequate population figures are not available.
Whooping Crane	Endangered animal (wild population less than 150 individuals).	All nest sites protected in Wood Buffalo National Park. Conservation of both migratory habitats and potential breeding habitats in Alberta is required.

Table 7: Status and background of Red List species (con't)

MAMMALS

Species	Current Status	Background
Black-footed Ferret	Extirpated from Canada.	Alberta at periphery of historic range. Reintroduction unlikely as habitat and food resources (prairie dogs) not available.
Swift Fox	Endangered animal, approx. Ten breeding pairs in 1990 from experimental releases.	Feasibility of a major reintroduction program being examined by national recovery team. Ability of this species to maintain itself in prairie Canada still in doubt.
Wood Bison	Endangered animal, entire Alberta population in captivity (approx. 350 mainly in Elk Island national park).	Restoration of this species in Alberta depends on resolution of disease concerns in northern Canada.
Woodland Caribou	Endangered animal, population stable to declining (approx. 3500 individuals).	Concern over maintenance of old-growth forest to provide critical winter habitat. Management of predation in some populations, improved population monitoring and habitat protection are being addressed.
Yellow-cheeked Vole	Extremely rare, possibly extirpated.	No records since early 1900s (in the Athabasca River area of the Boreal Forest), but little inventory data available from potentially suitable habitats.

Table 8: Status and background of Blue List species

These species are also at risk, but the threats they face are less immediate. They are particularly vulnerable to non-cyclic declines in population or habitat or to reductions in provincial distribution. Species which are generally suspected of being vulnerable, but for which information is too limited to clearly define their status have also been placed in this category.

AMPHIBIANS

Species	Current Status	Background
Plains Spadefoot Toad	Population highly variable, related to annual availability of breeding ponds.	Recent extended drought in core prairie habitats has lowered breeding populations; associated drainage, consolidation and cultivation of basins has decreased habitat availability.
Spotted Frog	Population status unknown.	Extremely limited distribution and possible population decline requires investigation.

REPTILES

Species	Current Status	Background
Prairie Rattlesnake	Relatively common in localized habitat.	Suggestion of population decline in similar habitat types in Saskatchewan. Maintenance in Alberta requires protection of key habitat elements such as hibernacula, and public education to reduce man-caused mortality.
Western Painted Turtle	Probably fewer than 100 individuals, very limited increase in local population may be a result of releases of captive "pets."	Known only from specific locations in Cypress Hills, lower Milk River and Oldman River. Very low population and extremely local and limited distribution leave this species particularly vulnerable to site-specific habitat loss.

Table 8: Status and background of Blue List species (con't)

BIRDS

Species	Current Status	Background
American White Pelican	Endangered animal estimated to have 1000 pairs. There has been an increase in nesting pairs since 1980 (548 to 1185).	Population increasing but the number of active colonies is decreasing. Comprehensive colony protection essential. Concern of possible disease risk. Drought across the prairies may have contributed to the increase in Alberta.
Bald Eagle	Unknown. Endangered in United States.	A species at risk throughout much of its central North American range. Low density population. Nests vulnerable to human disturbance.
Bay-breasted Warbler	Unknown, declining in large areas of North America range.	Dependent on old-growth forest, intolerant of extensive forest harvest.
Black Swift	Extremely rare resident.	Known from only two nesting areas in the mountain parks, but a long-term resident in at least one site. Nesting habitat vulnerable to disturbance, and security of prey base (flying ants) uncertain.
Blackburnian Warbler	Undetermined in Alberta, declining in eastern Canada.	A vulnerable species which is entirely dependent on pockets of old-growth forest.
Brewer's Sparrow	Uncertain, but population decline suspected.	The prairie population of this species relies on the availability of natural sage brush ecosystems. If these continue to be lost, the prairie Alberta population will be in jeopardy.
Cape May Warbler	Undetermined in Alberta.	Dependent on old-growth forest for breeding. Serious loss of neotropical winter habitat.

Table 8: Status and background of Blue List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Caspian Tern	Very rare, and localized.	Only two breeding colonies known to exist in Alberta. Protection of these sites is necessary to ensure viable population.
Cooper's Hawk	Unknown.	Designated as a vulnerable species throughout its Canadian range. Population status and trend information required.
Eskimo Curlew	Exceeding rare migrant.	Identification and protection of migratory habitat, as needed, to assist in international species recovery efforts.
Great Gray Owl	Unknown.	A naturally scarce species, widely distributed in boreal habitats. The status of the Canadian population is vulnerable.
Osprey	Unknown, suggested decline in western North America.	Continued protection of specific nest sites such as those at Brazeau Reservoir desirable. Monitoring of low population necessary to ensure maintenance at viable levels.
Prairie Falcon	Unclear, historic range reduction in northern areas.	Core range in southern Alberta dependent on availability of secure nest sites and adequate ground squirrel prey base.
Turkey Vulture	Population probably fewer than 100 breeding pairs, trend uncertain.	Known breeding area very localized, focused on central Red Deer River valley.

MAMMALS

Species	Current Status	Background
Bobcat	Perhaps fewer than 1000.	Harvest of bobcats is very low but populations are presumed to be stable.

Table 8: Status and background of Blue List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Brown Lemming	Unknown, only one specimen record.	Further work is required to document the possible range and population of this species in Alberta.
Canada Lynx	Cyclic species, estimate less than 8000 individuals at cycle bottom.	Population trend in recent years has been decreasing. Harvest now regulated by quota.
Cougar	Population appears to be steady at approximately 600 outside the national parks and restricted areas.	Cougars are primarily a southern mountains and foothills species, but they occasionally range into other areas. North of the Bow River, populations may be limited by prey availability.
Grizzly Bear	Numbers have remained relatively stable outside the national Parks since 1980 (1980 = 500-1000, 1989 = 600).	Found in the mountains, foothills and boreal forests of Alberta, the Grizzly Bear is sustaining its population under a very restrictive sporthunting regime. The greatest threat to Grizzly populations is loss of wilderness habitats.
Mountain Goat	A slight decline has occurred since 1980 (1980 = 1500-2000; 1990 = 1600).	Mountain Goats occupy localized habitats in the Mountain Ecoregion. In the recent past their numbers have dwindled due to poor population recruitment and overhunting. With closed hunting seasons their numbers are expected to recover gradually. Transplants to previously occupied habitats have been successful.
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	Stable but very localized in sand plain habitats of southeastern Alberta.	Maintenance of this rare species depends on availability of sand dunes and loose sand areas suitable for burrows.
Prairie Vole	Unknown.	Restricted to, and thinly distributed in parkland habitats. Continued conversion of these areas to intensive agriculture places the future of this species in question.

Table 8: Status and background of Blue List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Red-tailed Chipmunk	Population low, trend unknown.	Population localized in Waterton-West Castle area and is vulnerable to habitat loss.
River Otter	Unknown.	The harvest of otter has fluctuated since 1985. Population changes during that time are not known, but range may be expanding.
Sagebrush Vole	Unknown.	Conservation of native prairie and sagebrush habitats required within restricted grassland range.
Wandering Shrew	Extremely rare, population unknown but estimated at fewer than 100 breeding individuals.	Known from only seven verified records in West Castle area.
Western Small-footed Bat	Unknown.	Concern for habitat security because of clumped disjunct populations. Found only in prairie riverine habitats (cottonwoods and cliffs).
Wolverine	Unknown, possibly 1000 breeding individuals.	Harvest of wolverine is reduced from 1985 level, but population status remains unknown.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species

These are sensitive species that are not at risk. They may require special management to address concerns related to low natural populations, limited provincial distribution or particular biological features (e.g. colonial nesting, narrow habitat requirements).

AMPHIBIANS

Species	Current Status	Background
Canadian Toad	Common in boreal and parkland habitats.	Suggested decrease in parkland areas. Monitoring of populations required.

REPTILES

Species	Current Status	Background
Bull Snake	Stable or possibly declining population.	Most vulnerable at winter dens or hibernacula. Require conservation of prairie grassland summer range, protection of hibernacula and better population information to evaluate possible declines.
Plains Garter Snake	Common.	Public education combined with protection of key habitats (hibernacula) will benefit this species.
Red-sided Garter Snake	Common but localized.	Protection of key habitats and public education will ensure a stable population.
Wandering Garter Snake	Common but localized. Least abundant garter snake.	Continuation of stable populations is dependent on habitat protection and public education.

BIRDS

Species	Current Status	Background
American Bittern	Unknown, suspected declines in some areas.	Relies on permanent to semi-permanent wetlands with well-developed emergent vegetation. Drainage, consolidation and cultivation of these marshes is a continuing threat.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
American Wigeon	Breeding populations have decreased about 30% throughout Alberta. Habitat losses are of concern.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years. International initiatives being directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat hold promise for restoring breeding population levels.
Barred Owl	Uncommon, probably fewer than 1000 breeding pairs.	Preferred habitats of mature dense woodlands near water in southern boreal and mixedwood areas at some risk.
Black Tern	Unknown, apparently serious declines in Saskatchewan, and in overall North American breeding range.	Causes of population decline unknown but relies on maintenance of larger marsh/ wetland habitats.
Black-crowned Night Heron	Population has increased in Alberta over past 20 years.	As a colonial species reliant on marsh habitat, this species requires special management.
Black-backed Woodpecker	Unknown.	Maintenance of mature coniferous forests with standing dead trees (snags) for nesting required.
Black-headed Grosbeak	Unknown, possibly naturally declining through crossbreeding with more common Rose-breasted Grosbeak.	Range extremely limited to southwest mountains (Waterton area) and Cypress Hills.
Black-throated Green Warbler	Undetermined in Alberta.	Dependent on old-growth forest, concern over loss of neotropical winter habitat.
Blue-winged Teal	Breeding population decreased about 25% throughout Alberta during the past decade. Nesting habitat losses of major concern.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. International initiatives being directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat show promise for restoring breeding population levels.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Bonaparte's Gull	Unknown, possibly declining in some areas.	Nests in loose colonies in coniferous trees near water, in the boreal mixedwood regions.
Boreal Owl	Probably stable.	This small owl is dependent on mature to old growth forests with natural or woodpecker excavated cavities.
Brown Creeper	Poorly understood, probably fewer than 5000 pairs.	Range restricted to Parkland/ southern mixedwood fringe and southern foothills/Parkland. Relies on mature woodlands for nesting, and there is concern over the security of this habitat type.
Canvasback	An important game bird species internationally, but of lesser importance in Alberta. Breeding populations have decreased continentally and eastern populations still below objectives.	Continental harvest restrictions have produced recovery in western segment of population but concern still exists for eastern segment.
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Common in grassland habitats.	Found locally in good numbers, but is reliant on native grassland habitats which continue to be at risk.
Cinnamon Teal	Distribution of sightings have spread into central Alberta but the species continues to be uncommon in Alberta.	Occasional sightings will continue. No special management efforts directed at species, and no specific management concerns.
Clark's Nutcracker	Stable.	Found only in mountain habitats, with patchy distribution.
Common Loon	Unknown, clearly declining in other areas.	Broadly but thinly distributed in forested areas. Normally only one pair per waterbody (more on larger lakes). Sensitive to human disturbance, this species has disappeared from much of its southeastern Canadian range.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Common Snipe	Limited population status information. Believed to be stable.	Concerns about population status information and stability of habitat.
Double-crested Cormorant	Increasing.	This species was designated as endangered in Alberta in 1977. Since then, increasing numbers of colonies and individuals have allowed it to be removed from the endangered list. Continued protection of colonies and public education on food habits will ensure continued viable populations.
Eastern Screech Owl	Very rare in Alberta, current status unknown.	Very few records verified, more information is required.
Franklin's Gull	Unclear, possibly declining.	A prairie gull that also nests in the eastern Alberta Boreal Forest. Maintenance of wetland habitats in prairie areas is of concern.
Gadwall	Game bird species of lesser importance in Alberta. Breeding population stable throughout Alberta, although habitat losses are of concern.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. Gadwall populations have not been affected as much as other dabbling ducks.
Golden Eagle	Scarce but apparently stable, estimated 100 to 500 pairs in Alberta.	Very low population spread over broad areas. Site-specific nest site protection is appropriate.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Undetermined in Alberta.	Breeds only in the Caribou Mountains of northern Alberta. Significant habitat loss in neotropical wintering areas.
Great Blue Heron	Stable, approx. 75 colonies with 1500 breeding pairs (1980 data).	The entire Alberta population is dependent on fewer than 100 known nesting sites. Management of these key habitats, and protection from human disturbance is essential.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Green-winged Teal	Breeding population in Alberta is currently stable but has decreased by about 40% in southern Alberta during the last decade.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. International initiatives being directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat hold promise for restoring breeding population levels.
Herring Gull	Probably stable.	Range restricted to extreme northeastern Alberta (Lake Athabasca region). Protection of island-nesting colonies is a key management action.
Lesser Scaup	Breeding population decreased about 30% throughout Alberta. Habitat losses are of concern for this upland nesting diving duck.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. International concern initiatives being directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat hold promise for restoring breeding population levels.
Long-eared Owl	Unknown.	Breeds widely in Alberta woodlands. Security of boreal and mixedwood breeding areas of concern.
Mallard	Major game bird species in Alberta. Breeding population has decreased about 33% throughout Alberta and about 40% in southern Alberta during the past decade. Alberta is a major continental mallard production area.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. International initiatives being directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat hold promise for restoring breeding population levels.
Mountain Chickadee	Unknown.	Primarily restricted to coniferous forests in mountain habitats. Requires a natural or woodpecker excavated cavity for nesting.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Northern Goshawk	Unknown.	Although widespread in forest habitats, the status of this species is poorly understood. There is concern over the impact of industrial development in key boreal forest habitats.
Northern Hawk Owl	Unknown.	Another poorly understood species that may be adversely affected as boreal forest habitats are altered.
Northern Pintail	Important game bird species continentally. Alberta is a major production area. Breeding populations have decreased about 65% throughout Alberta and about 70% in southern Alberta.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. International initiatives, directed at enhancement of waterfowl habitat, hold promise for restoring breeding population levels.
Northern Shoveler	Breeding populations stable throughout Alberta, although habitat losses are of concern.	Serious habitat degradation has occurred over the last 10 years, as with all duck nesting habitat. Shoveler populations have not been affected as much as other dabbling ducks.
Ovenbird	Unknown, probably stable.	This large warbler relies on mature, closed-canopy deciduous forest with sparse understory shrub vegetation for nesting. Increased commercial harvest of mature deciduous forest is of concern.
Pileated Woodpecker	Probably stable.	The largest resident woodpecker, this species requires large mature to old-growth trees for excavating nesting cavities, and prefers extensive "wilder" forests during the breeding season.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Purple Martin	Decreasing.	Primarily or completely dependent on artificial nest boxes. Control of insect pests may be having an effect on dragon-flies, which are a primary food source. This species is also highly vulnerable in wintering area. More information is required.
Red-necked Grebe	Common but may be declining.	This species is reasonably common where it is found but there are indications of a slow downward trend in the parkland areas.
Ring-necked Pheasant	Introduced species, important game bird that has decreased considerably due to habitat losses. Wild populations fluctuate with winter severity.	Habitat retention on farmland and in irrigation districts is essential for species survival.
Sage Grouse	Population stable in a very restricted area of unique habitat. Alberta shares Canada's only Sage Grouse population with Saskatchewan.	Population maintenance depends on the availability of sage brush-grassland habitat. Any alteration of this unique complex will be detrimental to population survival.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Relatively common throughout the Grassland, Central Parkland and Peace River Parkslands, although farming intensification has decreased habitat availability in central Alberta.	Population abundance is dependent on open grassland/ shrubland during mating season. Retention of undisturbed grassland habitat essential for continued population welfare.
Three-toed Woodpecker	Unknown, uncommon.	Similar to the Black-backed Woodpecker, this species relies on mature or burnt-over forest habitats for nest cavity excavation and feeding.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Varied Thrush	Status poorly known, probably stable.	This species relies on mature moist forest habitats and is vulnerable to local changes brought about by timber harvest.
Western Grebe	Unknown, thought to be stable.	Nesting colonies located in emergent wetland vegetation are vulnerable to water management changes and human disturbance.
Western Screech Owl	Very rare in Alberta, present status unknown.	Very few firm records of this small, cavity-nesting owl have been reported in Alberta. Additional information is required.
Winter Wren	Unknown, possibly declining in eastern Canada.	Very local and disjunct range from West Castle area and Winefred Lake. Prefers mature moist coniferous forest, especially along streams and lakes.

MAMMALS

Species	Current Status	Background
Badger	Unknown, locally distributed.	The harvest of badger is low and declining but the status of badger populations is unknown.
Bighorn Sheep	Populations are stable or have declined slightly since 1980 (6000 in 1980 to 5200 in 1989).	Bighorn Sheep occupy much of the mountains and foothills along the western edge of Alberta from the U.S. border to about township 60. Their populations have maintained themselves under a strict sporthunting format. About 1000 of those sheep wintering in Alberta spend their summer and fall in the National Parks and restricted areas. Alberta is home to the largest population of Rocky Mountain bighorns in the world.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Columbian Ground Squirrel	Stable.	Distribution restricted to mountains and foothills, with a small outlying population near Grande Prairie.
Elk (Wapiti)	1989 population estimate of 16,000 indicates a small decline since 1980.	Elk are a major big game species in Alberta. While still below 1980 levels, populations are slowly increasing in response to protection afforded by a more restrictive sporthunting format. Elk are limited by wolf and bear predation, loss of habitat and hunting.
Fisher	Perhaps fewer than 10,000 breeding individuals.	Fisher harvest continued to decline from 1985. Population status is unknown.
Hoary Bat	Poorly understood, probably fewer than 1000 individuals in Alberta.	Mature forests essential for roosting. Only females return from wintering areas to give birth and raise young. No adult male has yet been located in Alberta.
Little Brown Bat	Appears stable.	A broadly distributed species but only one verified hibernaculum cave known in Alberta. This site is at risk from human disturbance during winter hibernation.
Long-tailed Vole	Estimate between 1000 and 5000 breeding individuals.	Range restricted to Rocky Mountaint and Foothills natural regions, with a small population in extreme southern Alberta and the Cypress Hills.
Long-tailed Weasel	Unknown.	Nationally ranked as Threatened. Habitat at high risk of being lost through agricultural activities.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Moose	Population declined generally across its range in the early 1980s.	Moose are found throughout the forested regions of Alberta. Their numbers are limited by hunting in part of the province and by predation in northern regions. Moose are now sustaining their numbers under a moderately restrictive hunting regime.
Nuttall's Cottontail	Total population has fewer than 5000 animals.	Range restricted to specific prairie habitats which are considered to be at risk over the next 10 years.
Pika	Stable.	Range restricted to specific mountain habitats (scree slopes), most of which are probably secure.
Prairie Shrew	Poorly understood.	Broadly but thinly distributed in eastern prairie and parkland habitats. Some concern over the status of the Canadian population.
Pronghorn (Antelope)	Population levels fluctuate depending on winter and summer climatic conditions. A series of dry years and an increased harvest have brought the population in line with provincial goal of 19 000.	Pronghorn are found mainly in the southeastern portion of the province. They inhabit only two Canadian provinces, but are common to several western states.
Silver-haired Bat	Poorly known, probably fewer than 1000 in Alberta.	This species relies on large mature trees for roosting. Maintenance of mature riparian habitats in prairie regions is essential.
Water Vole	Population estimated at between 1000 and 5000 individuals, trend unknown.	Extremely restricted range with most specimen records from the Bow River to Turner Valley region, and in the Waterton area.

Table 9: Status and background of Yellow List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	Stable.	Core areas of prairie and park-land habitats continue to be at risk from human development.
Wolf	About 3500 breeding individuals in remote areas.	Although the annual wolf harvest has declined, populations appear to be relatively stable.
Yellow-pine Chipmunk	Probably stable.	Range restricted to Mountain and Foothills natural regions, with core populations from Lake Louise south to Waterton.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species

These are species that are not at risk. Their populations are healthy and often widespread, and their key habitats are generally secure. This category also includes nonresident migrants and species whose occurrence in Alberta is accidental or peripheral to their normal distribution.

BIRDS

Species	Current Status	Background
American Black Duck	Occasional sighting in Alberta. Uncommon game species of minor importance from provincial perspective.	Occasional sightings will continue. No special management efforts directed at species, no specific management concerns.
American Coot	Abundant breeding population throughout Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Barrow's Goldeneye	Breeding range restricted to foothills area in Alberta. Population stable.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Black Scoter	Uncommon sightings in Alberta. Occasional migrant through the province.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Blue Grouse	Populations stable in high altitude forested areas of the province.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Brant	Occasional migrant through Alberta. Not normally found in the province.	Occasional sightings and harvest. No specific concerns about population levels.
Bufflehead	Breeding populations stable throughout Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Canada Goose	One migrant population and three resident breeding populations in Alberta. All populations at or above population goals. Resident populations have increased breeding range considerably.	Comprises bulk of Alberta's goose harvest. Populations are stable or increasing. No specific management concerns.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Common Goldeneye	Breeding population small but stable in southern Alberta. However decreased by about 50% in northern Alberta.	Habitat losses in northern portion of province may be cause for concern.
Common Merganser	Populations stable.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Eurasian Wigeon	An uncommon species in Alberta. Occasional sightings have occurred.	Occasional sightings will continue. No special management efforts directed at species, no specific management concerns.
Gray Partridge	Introduced species dependent on residual cover on farmland. Population currently abundant but fluctuates with severity of winter.	Habitat retention on farmland is essential for species survival.
Greater Scaup	Not common in Alberta in relation to Lesser Scaup.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Greater White-fronted Goose	Migrant through Alberta. Western segment of mid-continent population in slow decline, with numbers below population goals.	Additional hunting restrictions may be required continentally to reduce pressure on population.
Harlequin Duck	Breeding range restricted to southern Foothills and lower Rocky Mountain areas. Populations stable in these areas.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Hooded Merganser	Populations stable.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
King Eider	Very infrequent sightings of this migrant in Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Oldsquaw	Migrant through Alberta. Relatively uncommon sightings in northern areas of province.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Red-breasted Merganser	Populations stable.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Redhead	Breeding population stable throughout Alberta. Habitat losses have not affected diving species as much as dabbling species.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Ring-necked Duck	Breeding population stable throughout the province.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Ross' Goose	Migrant through Alberta. Population stable at or above continental population goals.	An early migrant into the province. Alberta harvest is low and should be maintained at that level.
Ruddy Duck	Breeding population stable or increasing throughout Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Ruffed Grouse	Population cyclic.	Intensification of farming efforts in Parkland and Boreal Forest fringes adversely affect habitat. Forestry development may adversely impact population levels.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Snow Goose	Migrant through Alberta. Currently abundant throughout North America, well above population goals.	No management concerns.
Spruce Grouse	Common species in mixed or coniferous forested regions.	Habitat losses because of forestry development may affect population levels.
Surf Scoter	Occasional sightings during migration through the province. Not common.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
White-tailed Ptarmigan	Populations believed to be stable in high mountainous areas of province.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
White-winged Scoter	Small but stable breeding population in Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Wild Turkey	Introduced species locally abundant in the Porcupine Hills and Cypress Hills areas.	No population concerns, no specific conservation efforts required for this species.
Willow Ptarmigan	Populations believed to be stable in extreme northern areas.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Wood Duck	Occasional sightings in Alberta. Presence of species in the province has increased in the last decade. Uncommon game species of minor importance from provincial perspective.	Alberta at limits of normal Wood Duck breeding range. Sporadic sightings indicate that species is present. No specific management efforts directed at species, no specific management concerns.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species (con't)

MAMMALS

Species	Current Status	Background
Beaver	Abundant throughout the province.	The harvest of Beaver in 1989-90 was reduced from 1985. Populations may be unchanged.
Black Bear	Numbers have remained relatively stable since 1980 (1990 = approx. 40 000).	Found throughout the northern half of the province and along the mountains and foothills. Black Bear populations appear to be doing well at the present time.
Coyote	Abundant and common.	Harvest of Coyotes varies with fur prices but overall the population is expected to remain healthy and widespread.
Ermine	Perhaps 50 000 breeding individuals.	Harvest of weasels remain constant at low numbers. Population status is unknown.
Marten	Probably more than 50 000 breeding individuals.	The harvest of marten remains high in 1989-90 reflecting good populations.
Mink	Probably more than 20 000 breeding individuals.	Harvest of mink continues to be low since 1985. Populations may have declined as a result of drought and drainage.
Mule Deer	Population has increased from 73 000 in 1980 to 88 000 in 1989.	Mule Deer are common throughout the southern half of the province. They are presently thriving in response to a series of mild winters and a closely regulated sporthunting regime. Predation may be locally significant, but hunting and winter weather remain the most important population regulators.
Muskrat	Abundant throughout the province.	The harvest of muskrats has declined drastically as a result of drought-reduced populations in the south.
Red Fox	Probably 25 000 breeding individuals.	Harvest of foxes has been stable or slightly declining. Populations appear stable.

Table 10: Status and background of harvested Green List species (con't)

Species	Current Status	Background
Red Squirrel	Abundant in conifer forest of Alberta.	The harvest of squirrels in 1989-90 was reduced from 1985 - levels due to declining trapper effort. Populations may be unchanged.
White-tailed Deer	Have shown a general increase province-wide since 1980 (1980 = 118 000; 1990 = 144 500).	White-tailed Deer continue to expand their range in Alberta, as their numbers increase in response to recent mild winters. They are the most popular big game species in the Province.

Table 11. Status and background of harvested Status Undetermined species

Status Undetermined species are species for which insufficient information is available at this time to determine an accurate classification.

BIRDS

Species	Current Status	Background
Sora	Status of population unknown. The most common rail species in Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Virginia Rail	Status of population unknown.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.
Yellow Rail	Status of population unknown although believed to be at low levels in Alberta.	No population concerns, no specific management efforts required for this species.

APPENDIX I

SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Note: This form has been included to encourage public input in defining or refining the status of individual wildlife species. Using this form and the numeric and descriptive criteria presented in Table 1, a numeric rating of any species may be submitted. Please be as through as possible in explaining the data, information or personal knowledge used to classify a species.

Comments and suggestions relating to the evaluation process are also be welcomed.

Please mail information/comments to:

Mr. W. K. Hall
Head, Status and Surveys Section
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division
4th Floor, 9920 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G6

SPECIES EVALUATED: COMMON NAME: _____

SCIENTIFIC NAME: _____

CRITERIA	RANK SCORE (SEE TABLE 1)	COMMENTS/EXPLANATION/DATA SOURCES
Abundance		
Breeding Distribution		
Habitat Integrity		
Population Trend		
National/ International Status		

Total Score _____

Status Recommended _____

Evaluated by: Name _____

Address _____

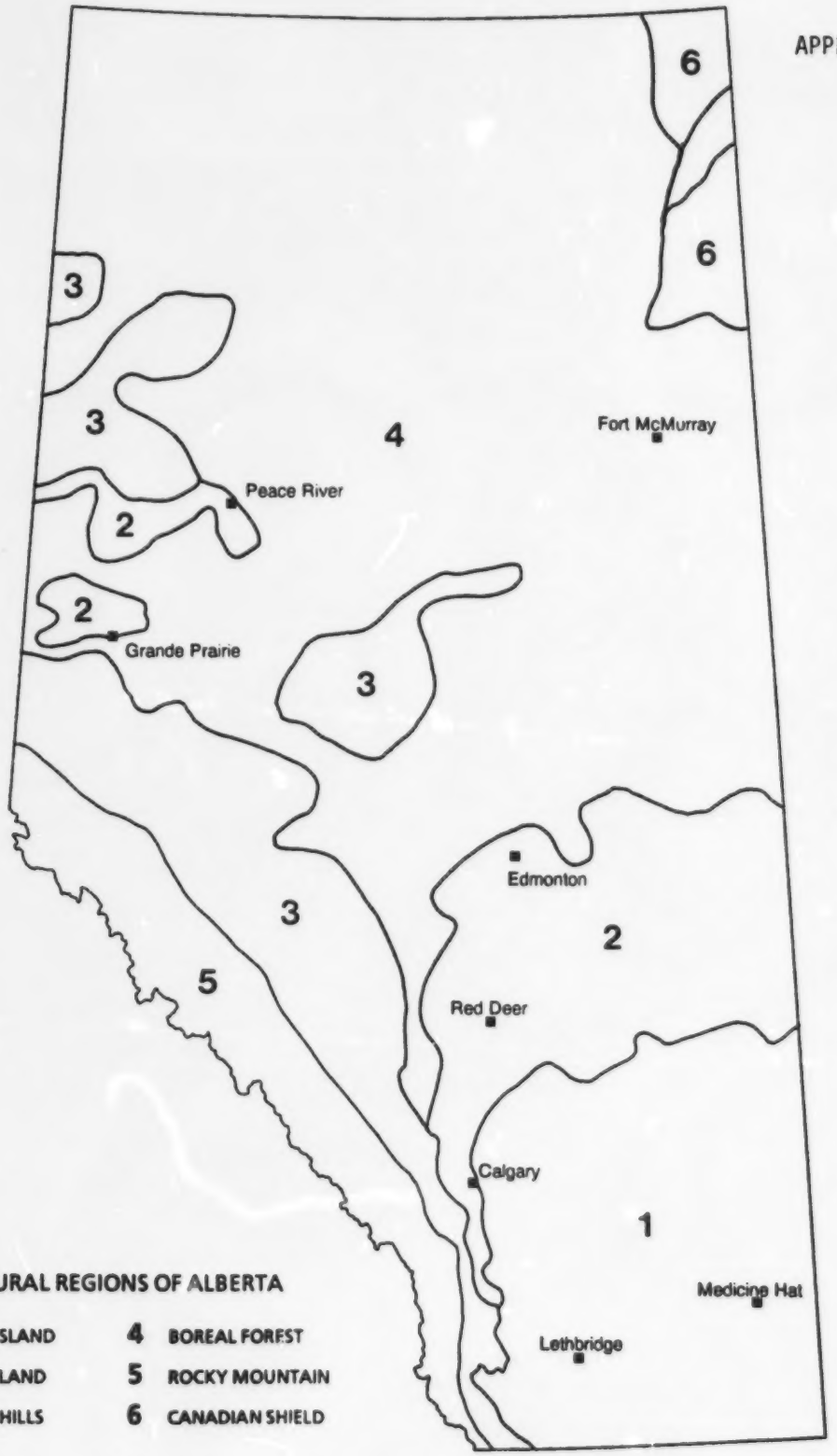
_____

_____

Phone # _____

Please use back for additional comments.

APPENDIX II


6
6
3
3
4
Fort McMurray
Peace River
2
2
Grande Prairie
3
Edmonton
3
2
5
Red Deer
Calgary
1
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
NATURAL REGIONS OF ALBERTA
1 GRASSLAND
2 PARKLAND
3 FOOTHILLS
4 BOREAL FOREST
5 ROCKY MOUNTAIN
6 CANADIAN SHIELD